

# Building neighborhood pride block by block

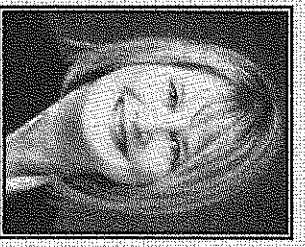
By Councilmember Rose Herrera  
*Special to the Times*

Please join us! National Night Out is one of the best opportunities of the year to bring your neighborhood together, have pride in your community, and have a good time. In a diverse community like ours, neighbors may not know as much of each other as we would all like. I want to give each District 8 citizen a chance to get to know your neighbors, strengthen our neighborhoods, and to empower those who care about improving our city block by block.

So, I'm coming to you. On Tuesday, Aug. 3, the entire City will participate in **National Night Out: America's Night out against crime.** This annual event, sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch and our San Jose Police Department, is designed to strengthen neighborhood spirit, increase support for anti-crime efforts, and mobilize police/community partnerships.

I, along with the District 8 Team, will attend every National Night Out event in our area. Whether it's an ice cream social, resource fair, backyard barbecue, or potluck, a member of the District 8 Team will be there. We will arrive ready to listen to your thoughts and ideas, provide information that is helpful to you, pass out give-aways for the kids, and neighborhood association kits.

By popular demand, we are using National Night Out as a launching point to form new neighborhood associations. At many of the events I attend, neighbors inquire about how to start a neighborhood association. By forming a neighborhood association in your area, the benefits include getting connected to City Hall, increasing pride in your area, and establishing a chain for information shar-



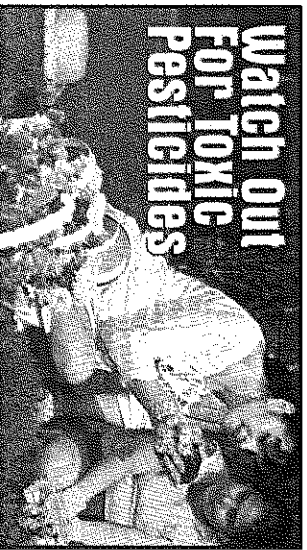
**District 8 Report**  
By Rose Herrera  
City Councilmember

ing and gathering. Our shared goal is to build a network of people just like you, who want a safer, cleaner place to call home. Even if crime is not a concern on your block, this is a great time to spend with neighbors, get to know your local police officers, and raise awareness on important issues facing your community.

Representatives from the SFPD will attend every registered event. They will make a brief presentation and listen to neighborhood concerns. The SFPD has an outstanding record of helping concerned neighbors organize neighborhood watches. The SFPD's Crime Prevention Unit has provided informational presentations to neighborhood groups for nearly 25 years. At a neighborhood watch meetings, a police officer will come to your meeting and talk about the crime trends in your area, how to react to suspicious or criminal activity, how San Jose's 911 emergency system works, and recommend security measures you can use in your home.

My commitment to the safety of District 8 has never wavered. I'm looking forward to getting a chance to meet concerned and involved citizens. Unity in our neighborhoods is a powerful tool to combat crime: criminals know that we are organized, and that we continue to fight for clean, safe streets. I strongly believe that the people of our community make it the great place it is to live and raise a family. By working together and strengthening our partnerships, we will ensure a strong, safe community for all.

For more information on the National Night Out events, please contact my office at (408) 535-4908 or [district8@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district8@sanjoseca.gov). Sign up for the District 8 Newsletter at [www.sanjoseca.gov/district8](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/district8).



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